

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to strongly support "AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS. To require an employee of the Department of Education to be responsible for providing information and assistance to the public relating to gifted and talented students and to require the Department of Education to conduct a study that examines the best practices in the provision of services to gifted and talented students."

I feel this would be very beneficial for parents, students, teachers and administrators in our district. I would encourage that specialists in Gifted education play a prominent role in the study examining best practices. I am concerned about the second portion of Section 2 which states that the study would also evaluate "using technology to extend and advance curriculum materials to provide instruction to gifted and talented students without promoting such students to higher grade levels". While technology may be very helpful for some students, I would not want technology to replace the important role of teachers. In addition, while for some students it is best to stay with their age peers, others thrive when accelerated to a higher grade level and I would not want a policy which would place any barriers to individual students in this regard; the Greenwich Public Schools have a number of students who have very successfully accelerated by skipping a grade or by going to higher level grades for instruction in a particular subject.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter,

Sincerely,

Janine Scharff